

Remarks

The numbered paragraphs of the Office action are responded to through the corresponding numbered paragraphs below. The applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The Examiner provided the reference to sections in Title 35, US Code provided in the prior Office action. The applicant believes that no specific response is required for this paragraph.
2. The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thatcher et al., in view of Nagayama et al., Warren et al. and Wulff. The applicant has requested that claim 1, on which claims 2-8 and 11-14 be amended to point out that applicant's invention includes a buffer pad adjustment. The applicant believes that none of the cited references, or any other known references disclose a single fluid bladder tank system as required to maintain the weight distribution of the machine during operation as the quantities of clean water, detergent and floor residue changes. The applicant believes that this requested amendment in combination with the other features in claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references either alone or in combination. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Response to Arguments

3. The Examiner noted that the applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 and 11-14 have been considered but were found to be "moot in view of the new ground(s) of

rejection." The applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration and believes that no specific response is required for this paragraph.

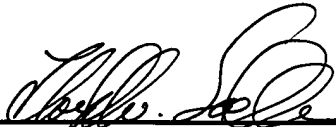
Conclusion

4. The Examiner indicated that certain "prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure." The applicant appreciates the Examiner's search and respectfully requests that these references be included in the list of Cited References for this case.

The Examiner has provided information concerning communication and/or inquiries concerning this case. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to communicate and assistance regarding this case and believes no response to this paragraph is necessary.

The applicant has included the proper status identifier as required in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. Also, as previously noted, the applicant has requested that claim 1 be amended as previously described. The applicant believes that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office action have been addressed. Applicant believes that the pending claims 1-8 and 12-14 including the amended claim 1, are patentable over all known prior art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of March, 2004.



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RCE Response/Amendment
App. S/N: 09/865,766
Attorney Docket No. 4313 P

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF
NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT
of 02/18/2004

Examiner Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744
Confirmation No. 5765



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